

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01

ACDA-07 IO-13 /078 W

----- 105859

R 301032Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7880

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, SY, PFOR, PINS

SUBJ: ATTACKS ON SYRIAN AIRLINES OFFICES

1. SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINE OFFICES IN RAWALPINDI AND KARACHI WERE FIREBOMBED EARLY MORNING SEPTEMBER 30. VERNACULAR PRESS REPORTS UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PEOPLE DROVE BY SAA OFFICE IN RAWALPINDI CANTONMENT AREA AND THREW BOMB THROUGH OFFICE WINDOW. FIRE WAS QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED AND DAMAGE WAS NOT EXT3NSIVE.

2. CONSULATE KARACHI REPORTS THAT AT ABOUT 3:00 AM MORNING SEPTEMBER 30, SAA OFFICE ON CLUB ROAD IN KARACHI WAS ALSO FIREBOMBED. IT TOOK FIRE DEPARTMENT APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES TO EXTINGUISH THE BLAZE AND BUILDING WAS EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED. CONSULATE UNDERSTANDS THAT ONE POLICE OFFICER WAS BADLY BURNED IN FIRE. BOMBING HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

3. PRESS REPORTS OF RAWALPINDI INCIDENT SPECULATE THAT PLO SUPPORTERS WHO ARE "NOT PAKISTANI" WERE THE PERPETRATORS. CONSULATE KARACHI REPORTS IDENTICAL SPECULATION FROM POLICE AT THE SCENE WHO SAID THERE ARE
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RUMORS PLO WAS INVOLVED.

4. ALTHOUGH GOV HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO TAKE SIDES IN FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND HAS COUNSELED MODERATION IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, EMBASSY HAS NOTICED A GROWING ANTI-SYRIAN PUBLIC SENTIMENT. SEPTEMBER 30 EDITORIAL IN LEADING VERNACULAR PAPER "NAWAI-E-WAQT" CRITICIZES SYRIAN "ATTACKS" IN LEBANON AND BEMOANS DISUNITY IN ARAB WORLD. WE ASSUME ATTACKS ON SAA OFFICES, WHICH CAN ONLY EMBARRASS GOP, ARE RESULT OF ANTI-SYRIAN FEELING AND BELIEF AMONG PLO SYMPATHIZERS AND OTHERS THAT SYRIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PALESTINIAN DEBACLE IN LEBANON.
BYROADE

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